

**EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
May 23, 2007
SCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES**

Attendance: Gail Brown (Chairman), Mary E. Brower (Vice Chairman), Phyllis Snyder (Member) absent, Ann Keen (Member), Elaine Preston (Secretary), Lynn Coine (Member), Roy Kolb (Planning Commission Liaison)

Meeting called to order 7:00PM

Minutes

Time was taken at this point to read minutes.

M. Brower motioned to accept the minutes of May 9, 2007 with spelling and grammar corrections only.

L. Coine seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

No public comment

Subdivision and Land Development

Neuman Subdivision

- G. Brown, L. Coine, and E. Preston met with Neuman property representative, Mr. Gary Gaboriault, on Monday, May 21, 2007, to view the interior of the existing house on the property. (This house is proposed to be demolished.)
- The Historical Commission reviewed and discussed photographs taken by L. Coine of the interior of the house.
- No architectural details of the interior of the house were found to be historically significant.
- Neuman Subdivision is to submit detailed Landscape drawings. The Historical Commission will be reviewing for buffering of historical properties, especially those adjacent to Lot #1. The Historical Commission will also be reviewing landscaping around the off-site storm water basin located on a historical property.

Painter Tract

- L. Coine, Historical Commission primary contact for this development, attended the May 16, 2007, Planning Commission meeting and reported on the status of this development.

- G. Brown, at the May 16, 2007, meeting of the Planning Commission, had requested Painter Tract representatives attend this meeting of the Historical Commission to discuss adjacent historical resources. Representatives did not attend.
- The Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) requires at Sketch Plan stage the location of all Township-mapped historically significant areas and structures on the site and on all adjoining tracts. (NOTE: SALDO conflicting requirement, 500' stated in SALDO would supersede 'adjoining' requirement.) Per February 21, 2007, Memorandum from the Historical Commission to the Painter Tract, the developer was provided with a list of adjoining resources. At the May 16, 2007 Planning Commission meeting the developer acknowledged receipt of this memorandum. Current drawings, March 29, 2007, still state, "Historic resources (No documented resources on site or within one hundred feet (100') of boundary".
- E. Preston motioned a letter to be written to the representatives of the Painter Tract requesting attendance at the next scheduled Historical Commission meeting on June 13, 2007. Attendance is requested to discuss identification of adjacent historical resources as required by SALDO and review of township mapped historical resources.
M. Brower seconded the motion
Motion carried unanimously 5-0-0

Hidden Acres Estates

- At Final Plan stage, Hidden Acres Estates has decided to address 'open space/recreation' requirements. (Hidden Acres Estates had previously offered 'fee' in lieu of open space requirements).
- There was discussion about the line of trees shown on the landscape drawings for Lot # 5 which buffer the historic resource on tax parcel #18-06-0044. G. Brown to request clarification as to what species of trees are used in this tree line.

Joseph McCann

- It is unclear as to when Joseph McCann Co., Inc. received the Historical Commission recommendation letter of January 24, 2007, to the Board of Supervisors, but Joseph McCann Co., Inc. has not complied with SALDO 303.3.B.(12). The identified historical resources are a 1920 and a 1950 resource which are part of five (5) structures on an adjoining property ranging from 1920 to 2005.
- As these structures have already been compromised by the other three (3) structures on the this property, the Historical Commission finds the activity on the Joseph Mc Cann Co., Inc. property has no significant impact to adjoining historical resources.

Whispering Woods

- M. Brower, Historical Commission primary contact for this subdivision, attended the May 16, 2007, meeting of the Planning Commission and reported the status of this subdivision.
- Ruggiero Development Group, representing Whispering Woods, appeared at the May 16, 2007, Planning Commission Meeting. They discussed; 1) Sidewalks along the property; 2) Placement of walking trail; 3) Road widening along the property. It was noted the Township Supervisors had already made their recommendations.
- The Historical Commission will be reviewing drawings for addition of all identified historical resources within five hundred (500) feet, buffering of historic resources, submission and completion of the DEP Cultural Resource Notice, and any other impacts on historic resources.

Bealer Subdivision

- Per discussion among the Historical Commission members, it was noted the house and barn on this property **have** been abandoned for thirty (30) years or more.
- The Historical Commission discussed possible Final Plan recommendation for this property. Possibility of Historical Resource Impact Study or requesting historical pictures and documentation from the developer as this property has been in the same family for many years. Also, as recorded in past Historical Commission Meeting Minutes, possibility of retrieving past research performed by the Historical Commission.

Wineberry Estates (National Register Listed, Eligible – Class I Township)

- Received (on May 10, 2007) letter of April 23, 2007, from the Township to Gambone Development Group, stating: “A Landscape Architect is to work the 410’ (section to be removed) stone wall into the landscapes in a structured manner and keep the stone on the original (Maack Road) side of the road. Please provide this information in your plans.” At the May 7, 2007 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the Board gave relief to Gambone Development allowing they do not have to provide this information in their plans.

Sprint Faulk Tract

- On May 10, 2007, G. Brown had a discussion with representatives of the Sprint (Fault Tract) cell tower project concerning the Historical Commission letter of January 11, 2007, and e-mail correspondence from the Township Manager dated January 4, 2007. These documents related to Zoning Ordinance requirements, Article 14. Copies have been forwarded to the project representative for their information.

2008 Calendars

- M. Brower and G. Brown visited Zap Digital, Inc. on May 18, 2007 to deliver a draft copy of the 2008 Historical Commission calendar for printing. The bid proposal from Zap Digital, Inc. includes two (2) proofs. The first proof should be available by Friday, June 1, 2007. Based on this date, M. Brower is to schedule a meeting with A. Keen and G. Brown to review the proof.
- M. Brower rewrote the disclaimer and read it to the members. All members agreed with the changes.

Discussion Items

- E. Preston is to call Chester County Parks and Recreation to find out if East Coventry is going to receive the Chester County Town Tour brochure.
- G. Brown is going to call the surrounding communities that are participating in the Town Tours and offer our services to support our fellow Historical Commissions and Societies.
- The Historical Commission had a lengthy discussion about sponsoring a Guest Speaker from the Chester County Historical Society (CCHS) to deliver a program to the residents of East Coventry Township. G. Brown inquired whether the township would qualify as a non-profit group. CCHS concurred that we would qualify as a non-profit, and our costs would be \$50.00 in lieu of the \$100.00 for a for-profit organization. This cost would be well within our budget. This effort will need to be approved by the Board of Supervisors and coordinated with our Township Management. The Commission discussed 'How Old is That Photograph' as a possible subject. This program can accommodate as many as twenty-five to thirty persons. The program includes a slide show on how to research photos from family collections and date them. Each individual in attendance may bring one (1) image to be evaluated. There are concerns about parking at the township building, as the sports activities at Ellis Woods Park can make parking difficult. L. Coine to inquire about optional places to hold this presentation.
- Ken Hoffman called G. Brown concerning the concrete pad at the Ellis Woods Cemetery. He wanted to know if it was a sarcophagus and what information the Historical Commission can provide. Mr. Hoffman's son is the Boy Scout who is proposing to build an incinerator on the pad to properly burn American Flags as his Eagle Scout project. G. Brown asked the Historical members if they knew the purpose of the concrete pad. No one knew. G. Brown stated she had found a

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letter from Dino Volpi (former Historical Commission Chairman) to the Board of Supervisors dated April 11, 2002. This letter states, "Attached is documentation to prove the existence of numerous graves of Revolutionary War Soldiers." The Historical Commission does not have copies of these attachments. An e-mail was sent to B. Frisco on Tuesday, May 22, 2007 requesting she check township files

for this letter, specifically the attachments. We are awaiting a response. G. Brown is trying to contact D. Volpi for more information. M. Brower suggest- we contact Estelle Cremers as she is very knowledgeable about the cemetery. The Historical Commission will continue to pursue this request.

- The Historical Commission further discussed the subject of the 2009 Historical Calendar. G. Brown stated she had researched and found enough outbuildings – i.e., smokehouses, ice houses, bake houses, etc., to support an ‘outbuildings’ calendar. Mr. Roy Kolb suggested a calendar for ‘summer kitchens’. The Historical Commission is to further research this possibility.

Additional Business

- G. Brown requested all members hand in any outstanding expense vouchers to E. Preston. E. Preston to apply all expenditures to the budget and co-ordinate with the township for any additional expenditure by the end of June for semi-annual budget accounting.
- G. Brown passed around letters generated by the township responding to the results of the bid process for the 2008 calendar for membership review. E. Preston to file.

Adjournment

M. Brower motioned to adjourn the meeting
L. Coine seconded the motion
The motion was approved unanimously
The meeting was adjourned 9:11PM

Respectfully submitted

Elaine C. Preston
Secretary
East Coventry Township Historical Commission